

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Workshop Meeting, November 4, 2008, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Deirdre Strachan (acting chair), Ann Nemrow, Don Jones, Tony Barrett, Burr Taylor

Absent: Mary Ann Nahf, Anne Perry, Rhonda Weaver (Associate)

Guest: Carol Tukey (Town Planner)

Meeting called to order at 3:02pm by D. Strachan. Unanimously approved minutes of October 28, 2008.
Moved by A. Nemrow, seconded by D. Jones.

Open Space Plan (OSP)

M. Nahf working on executive summary. To be sent to members via email by Wednesday. Input needed no later than Thursday, 11/6.

The OSP, appendices and the executive summary with all photos included should be available on Town website by 11/10.

Definition of vernal pools discussed. Why are they important. To be included on page 8 and 25 of the OSP. Also noted that subsequent to Sept. 2007, a survey for vernal pools must be made on property prior to completion of sale at the owners expense.

Re definition of Open Space. Cultural, Historical and Recreation to continue as a part of the definition.

Discussed using the words protected land and permanently protected land. Agreed to use limited protection and permanent protection from this point forward.

Appendix 11 and 21: History of land use regulations. C. Tukey to re-read after comments received from Reed Coles.

For future action by HCC. Develop a strategy for implementation of regulations to protect wetlands. Of utmost importance is communicating their importance to those that may be opposed to such regulations.

Also important to work on publicity of the OSP.

Conservation Leases discussed. Add this concept to section 6 of the OSP. Details will be placed in the appendices.

Maps. Discussed new focus area map developed by C. Tukey. Keep existing legend and make it larger. Note that larger size map will be available in Planning office. C. Tukey will add wording. The protected lands map will be updated by Fred. Subdivisions to be added.

Open Space Flyer: Tony to do names/addresses for those who attended the forums in 2007. The mailing of the letter and flyer will be the week of 11/10. Flyer to be completed by M. Nahf incorporating some of A. Nemrow's ideas if possible. D. Jones will post flyers around the Town. It will also be posted on the Town website. Press releases will be done by C. Tukey by 11/7. M. Nahf and C. Tukey to be contacts.

Hildreth Road site visit: Discussed issue of whether another letter had to be sent to selectmen. D. Jones thought a balanced approach was best with the wetland area of the property being retained by the Town. A building lot on the road could be sold to raise money to put into the Open Space Fund for future land acquisition. This would also put a parcel on the tax rolls. A. Nemrow concurred but expressed concern about the bog area outside of the wetlands. D. Strachan preferred keeping all of property as conservation land as part of preservation of Otter Brook Focus Area. Other lots in the area may have conservation easements at some time. HCC members also favored trails on the land, but parking area is needed. Also discussed vernal pool mapping on the site in April, assessment of land for septic system, survey of land. It was noted that Otter Brook wetlands drain mainly to the north and impact the clam flats.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

Donald Jones, acting secretary